

REMARKS

Claims 171-174, 184-198, 200-204, 214-215, 218-222, 227-236, 243-245, 251-255, and 260-293 are pending in the application. Reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

The Applicants are filing a Seventh IDS, which contains the references crossed-out from the Sixth IDS filed on June 12, 2003. Many of the references listed on the Form PTO-1449 are located in the Cummins-Allison Library at PK5-5T11. Specifically, the references cited in the Seventh IDS are identified as C-D174; C-C1; C-C13; C-C30; C-C40; and C-C35 in the Cummins-Allison library. The Applicants have submitted a copy of the other two references (U.S. Patent Nos. 4,429,991 and 4,880,096) in the Seventh IDS

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

The Office Action applied the references of De La Rue Systems 3100 Series Operator Instructions (“DLR 3100”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,394,992 to Winkler (“Winkler”). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

DLR 3100 discloses a currency sorter or counter – not a currency evaluation device that is capable of denominating bills. In other words, the currency sorter of DLR 3100 cannot, for example, determine that a \$5 U.S. bill is a \$5 bill and a \$10 U.S. bill is a \$10 bill.

All of the independent claims of the pending application are directed to devices that denominate. *See, e.g.*, independent claims 171, 184, 189, 200, 227, and 234-236 reciting, “a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills including United States bills of a plurality of denominations”; independent claim 214 reciting “a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills including bills of a plurality of denominations”; independent claim 218 reciting “the discriminating unit being adapted to count and determine the denomination of the bills”; independent claims 243, 244, and 251 reciting “a discriminating unit comprising a processor...the processor being adapted to receive the characteristic information output signal and generate a denomination signal in response thereto”; independent claim 260 reciting “a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills.”

Furthermore, as acknowledged in the Office Action, DLR 3100 does not disclose “a currency sorter capable of processing bills at a rate of 800 bills a minute or more.” Independent

claims 171, 184, 189, 200, 227, and 234-236 recite, *inter alia*, a discriminating unit that is adapted to count and denominate the bills at a rate of at least 800 bills per minute.

DLR 3100 discloses that its currency sorter operates “up to 200 to 250 notes per minute [in the] SORT process”, and “[u]p to 420 notes per minute maximum in the COUNT process.” Page 1/1 of DLR 3100. The other applied reference (Winkler) in the Office Action is discussed as being a “sorter [that] is intended to handle documents at a high rate of speed approaching 2,000 documents per minute. (column 5, lines 53 plus)”. Winkler, however, does not appear to disclose that its documents are denominated at a rate greater than 800 bills/minute. Rather, the quoted Winkler passage from the Office Action appears to refer to counting the documents, not denominating the bills. See column 5, lines 54-59 of Winkler:

My sorter is intended to handle documents at a high rate of speed approaching 2,000 documents per minute. In order to permit the sensors to distinguish successive documents and for the purpose of counting the documents, the acceleration rollers...

Regardless, there is no teaching or suggestion that the device of DLR 3100 could be combined with the device of Winkler to sort documents at a rate approaching 2,000 documents/min, let alone to denominate bills at a rate of 800 bills/min.

Additionally, DLR 3100 does not disclose several other features that are recited in many of the independent claims such as a processor that is programmed to flag no call bills. See, e.g., independent claims 171, 184, 200, 214, 227, 243, 244, and 260. In fact, the feature of flagging no call bills cannot be performed unless one is denominating the currency bills. Therefore, DLR 3100, which does not denominate bills, cannot teach or suggest such features recited in, for example, independent claims 171, 184, 200, 214, 227, 243, 244, and 260. Winkler does not disclose a processor that is programmed to flag no call bills.

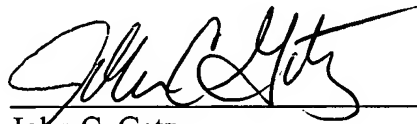
Therefore, for at least these reasons, independent claims 171, 184, 189, 200, 214, 218, 227, 234-236, 243, 244, 251, and 260 are not obvious over DLR 3100, Winkler, or the combination thereof. Thus, independent claims 171, 184, 189, 200, 214, 218, 227, 234-236, 243, 244, 251, and 260 should be allowable. Dependent claims 172-174, 185-188, 190-198, 201-204, 215, 219-222, 228-233, 245, 252-255, and 261-293, which depend either directly or indirectly on independent claims 171, 184, 189, 200, 214, 218, 227, 244, 251, or 260 are not obvious over

DLR 3100, Winkler, or the combination thereof for at least the same reasons and, thus, should be in a condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. A check in the amount \$290.00 is enclosed for the one-month extension of time and fee submission of Information Disclosure Statement. Should any additional fees be required (except for payment of the issue fee), the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from Jenkins & Gilchrist, P.C. Deposit Account No. 10-0447, Order No. 47171-00262USC2.

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